

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Executive, CD

DATE: 11/1/62

FROM : Acting Chief, Industrial Register, CD

SUBJECT: The Effect on the Industrial Register of Duplication in the Translation of Soviet Press and Periodicals

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m ② AD/CD
✓ ③ E/CD

1. Background:

The Industrial Register, through continued processing and examination of its files, is constantly concerned with the problem of translation duplication of Soviet press and periodicals. It is also concerned with the fact that some translations are made in inadequate or misleading form. This is obviously expensive in initial cost and follow-up correction. The situation also has repercussions reaching beyond IR and CIA, since IR files are extensively used by the entire intelligence community.

This problem of translation duplication has existed for some time, but repeated efforts to correct it have been lost in committee rooms. However, recent reduction in T/O's has made it increasingly clear that the time has come to reappraise this situation and make every effort to correct it. Duplication and inadequate translation results in an unwarranted expenditure of time and effort by analytical, machine, and product classification sections, and causes considerable frustration to editorial boards and our customers in CIA and the IAC agencies.

2. Organizations Translating Soviet Press and Periodicals:

The following major organizations are engaged in the translation of Soviet press and periodicals: Foreign Documents Division, CIA; Air Information Division, USAF; Joint Intelligence Board; Joint Press Reading Service; Current Digest of the Soviet Press; Atomic Energy Commission; Soviet Press Translations; Foreign Broadcast Intercept Service, CIA; service groups too numerous to mention.

a. Foreign Documents Division (FDD) and Air Information Division (AID)

These two organizations are treated together since they are the principal translators of Soviet press and periodicals, and since the area of duplication is greatest between these two groups.

An FDD official has informed us that there are seventeen major newspapers covered by both FDD and AID with little coordination of effort. Duplication of effort has been estimated by this official to run, at times, as high as forty percent.

A preliminary examination of our files indicates that duplicate extracts have been processed from the following newspapers: Pravda Vostoka, Leningradskaya Pravda, Izvestiya, Pravda Ukrainy, Trud, Moskovskiy Bolshevik, Kazakhstanakaya Pravda, Vechernaya Moskva, Moskovskiy Komsomolets, Kommunist, Sovetskaya Latviya, Sovetskaya Estoniya, Krasny Flot, Kommunist Tadzhikistana, and others. Duplication also exists in the translation of most trade and ministerial journals.

Originally, there had been an understanding between FDD and AID whereby the latter group would exploit only pre-1947 information. This practice fell into disuse several years ago when AID began to exploit current material, thereby often duplicating FDD efforts. The AID viewpoint is that FDD was not covering material necessary for the construction of target mosaics; FDD's viewpoint is that the Air Force requirements were not sufficiently specific.

Each of these organizations has a specific mission and each has strong support from its parent organization. FDD has a Security Council Directive and AID is the principal contributor of information for the construction of the target mosaics which are used by the Strategic Air Command and other intelligence services. Neither of the organizations seems willing to yield its position.

b. Joint Intelligence Board (JIB) (Summary of Soviet Press, Summary of Soviet Periodicals)

These publications were discontinued on August 1, 1952. In the opinion of many, they constituted the finest summaries of current press and periodicals ever presented. They had many advantages over present coverage, the most important being that the Summary appeared approximately one month after the publication date of the newspapers or periodicals. Many of the extracts from these publications were duplicated by both AID and FDD. Since these publications have been discontinued, there no longer is a problem except that the duplications mentioned above will have to be removed from our files.

c. Joint Press Reading Service (JPRS)

This organization is in Moscow and is conducted in joint operation with the British. The JPRS reviews and abstracts major newspapers of the USSR and issues two translated series. Section "A" is devoted to foreign affairs while Section "B" covers domestic news. Abstracts of leading periodicals are also prepared. Since most of the material in these publications deals in general economic and political terms, very little duplication occurs here. FDD receives a copy of the JPRS and uses it as a guide in translating the same sources. There have been occasions when FDD has worked the same article, but we have been informed that this occurs only when the article has not been translated in full and when FDD is in possession of requirements indicating that such a translation would be desirable. Minor duplication also occurs in covering Soviet periodicals, especially the Journal of the Academy of Science.

d. Current Digest of the Soviet Press

This Digest is published weekly by the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies appointed by the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. Pennsylvania State College and the Universities of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Stanford and Notre Dame contribute to the publication. The Digest is published primarily as an aid to persons engaged in research and interpretation of public affairs and as such does not include much industrial or scientific intelligence.

Since no requirements have been submitted against this publication by the intelligence community, the industrial and scientific material which does appear is often of a low and superficial quality. IR has not exploited this publication but will make a study of the coverage and thereby determine whether processing is warranted. FDD receives this publication and attempts not to duplicate items published in it. In many cases, however, the Digest abstracts are so brief that they do not fulfill the requirements leveled on FDD by other offices and, consequently, FDD must rework the original article.

e. Atomic Energy Commission

Articles appearing in Russian scientific journals are contracted out to various organizations for translation and are prepared for the National Science Foundation. In their final form, these usually constitute complete translations of the abstracts which appear in the FDD publication entitled "Periodical Abstracts". These full translations constitute no problem since we can exchange them for the abstracts that are normally in the file.

f. Soviet Press Translations

This publication was discontinued on March 15, 1953. It was published weekly at the University of Washington Press by the Far Eastern and Russian Institute. This publication, like the Current Digest of the Soviet Press, is primarily concerned with general political and economic news and what has been said about the Current Digest would also apply here. IR has not exploited these translations but plans to study its exploitation along with that of the Current Digest of the Soviet Press.

g. Foreign Broadcast Intercept Service

Since the Soviet news services utilize the radio as well as the press, a certain amount of information which appears in the press will also appear in the FBIS reports. Since this duplication is difficult to detect and does not appear often, no important problem is involved.

3. Factors to Consider:

a. Cost Factor

A detailed study would be necessary to determine the cost of each duplicate translation because this problem, affecting the entire intelligence community, involves so many operations in the complete processing of translated documents. A preliminary survey indicates that duplicate translations may cost as much as one dollar per line. This would include the cost of translation, editing, typing, intellofaxing, panel reading, analytical processing, microfilming, product coding, file checking for duplicates, "killing" duplicate information, paper, publishing, etc.

b. Varied Security Classification Factor

There is wide variance in the classification of material extracted from Soviet press and periodicals. Identical articles range all the way from Unclassified to Secret. This often presents itself in amusing and embarrassing fashion in bibliographical citations where articles from the same newspaper or journal bear several conflicting classifications. Extracts taken from the Soviet press are classified SECRET in JIB publications, CONFIDENTIAL by FDD, and UNCLASSIFIED by AID and the various university publications. Extracts taken from Soviet journals are classified SECRET by FDD, while the entire article when translated and published by the AEC or the AID is UNCLASSIFIED.

c. Time Lag Factor

The volume of material which IR processes and the irregular intervals at which duplicate translated material arrives at IR for processing, precludes the possibility of checking for duplicates of each card submitted to file. AID "Treasure Island" reports reach IR about one or two months after source publication date, while FDD documents usually arrive after about four months.

d. Frustration Factor

Because duplicate articles exist in IR files, the researcher must spend valuable time reading and weeding out such translations. IR personnel must also periodically re-examine its files to search out duplicate information.

e. Product Coding Factor

The product classification section of IR, through its method of coding the products of every plant in the USSR, provides the researcher with an invaluable aid. However, since document sources are not coded, any duplications coded and processed by this group will show up as false confirmations on a machine listing. This, of course, adds up to wasted effort by the classifying analyst, the machine sections, and the researcher.

f. Paper Size Factor

About five years ago, the IAC agencies agreed to use a standard 5" x 8" ICF card. Cabinets for these cards are in use in most IAC agencies which furnish their intelligence on either a 5" x 8" form or a form which is 8" wide and of varying lengths. The length is immaterial for filing purposes since documents can be easily folded to size. If the paper's width, however, is greater than 8", it must be cut down to 8" to fit IR and other IAC files. CIA is the only IAC agency which continues to issue most of its documents on paper which is 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. In 1951, through an IR employee suggestion, SO and OO agreed to reduce the size of their paper to 8". However, no action was taken and a recent similar suggestion also has failed to produce any results on this problem. In one six-month period, IR had to cut 17,509 CIA documents to size.

g. Time Lost Factor

[] reports are widely distributed throughout the intelligence services where valuable analytical time must be spent either in typing off individual extracts or in cutting and pasting them on cards. It would effect a considerable saving if [] extracts could be set on individual cards as is now done in the "Treasure Island" project. Many ORR analysts have advocated such a project.

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4. Deficiencies of Present System:

a. Outright Duplication

There are many articles which are of interest to several intelligence services. Such articles are often translated without coordination with other agencies. This is especially true of military service translation groups.

Example: In the Moscow ZIS Automobile Plant file; [] dated 3 October 1952 is a four page translation, substantially complete, of an article which appeared in Avtomobilnaya i Traktornaya Promyshlennost, No. 3, 1952; Treasure Island No. 135190, date of extraction 5 Feb. 1953, is a six page translation of the same article.

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b. Inadequate Abstracting or Translating

This deficiency often causes confusion to the user of IR files and frequently necessitates a special request for the complete translation.

Example: By comparing duplicate abstracts of a news item, one notes a difference in quality. [] failed to record the authors of the articles translated, while "Treasure Island" No. 135190 does record them. [] noted that the ZIS plant's forge shop "will save about 1,300 tons of metal by adopting this method." "Treasure Island" No. 125241, abstracting the same item, noted the name of the plant's director (not given in the [], but stated only that "There is a forge shop at the plant."

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c. Failure to Translate Articles of Essential Information

This difficulty stems primarily from the offices which send requirements to the translation services. If translations are to cover essential information, the offices which initiate the requirements must make an effort to include general as well as specific industrial and scientific items of interest.

In a recent discussion, [], formerly with FDD, stated that since that organization cannot translate each paper in its entirety, proper requirements must be leveled at FDD in order for them to know what material should be worked.

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Example: In the ZIS plant file, there are many short bibliographical abstracts prepared by the [] Summary of Soviet Press for which we have neither matching [] nor "Treasure Island." [] Summary of Soviet Press notes that Avtomobilnaya i Traktornaya Promyshlennost No. 2, 1952, pp. 31-32 contains "Photographs and description of shot made from steel wire for shot blasting operations at the Stalin Motor Vehicle Works in Moscow." SSP also notes that issue No. 4, 1952, of the same journal, pp. 5-8, contains "diagrams of different components of a ZIS-150 truck and suggestions for new operative methods with a view to greater economy in weight and material. Particulars of materials used at the present time." Our files indicate that neither FDD nor AID made any translation of these articles; they did, however, duplicate efforts on an article in the intervening issue, No. 3, 1952 of this journal.

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d. Failure to Note that More Information is Available

If merely an abstract is made of a particular document or article, it should be so noted. This would avoid confusion on the part of the analyst doing research, since in many translations, there is no way of knowing whether the translation is complete or merely an abstract. If any sketches, diagrams or photographs accompany an article, these should also be noted.

Example: Ogonek, No. 22, 31 May 53, contained a two-page article (illustrated) on ENIMS (The Experimental Scientific Institute of Metal Cutting Lathes) by A. E. Prokipovich. [redacted] merely comments on one of the two accompanying photos, but makes no note of the article which reviews the work of the Institute.

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e. Improper Identification of Plants and Institutes

Identification of both plant and plant location should be as complete as possible. If any confusion exists, then both the English and the Russian should be given. Any quotation marks or capitalization should be carried over into English. FBIS and AID have adopted this practice and have thus saved many analytical hours of work.

Example: A newspaper may mention significant changes occurring at the Kalinin Plant. This might refer to one of at least six plants in Moskva named in honor of Kalinin, to one of many plants scattered throughout Russia that are so named, or even to a town or city with the same appellation.

f. Loss of Plant Names by Translation

Many Russian plants are referred to in Soviet press and periodicals only by "descriptive" name. Since the location of the plant may not be given, it can only be identified by this "descriptive" name which becomes fairly standardized in Soviet publications. When this name is merely translated without the accompanying "descriptive" name in Russian, it is often difficult to identify the installation.

*This is a
plant and
the only one
mentioned
in the process*

Example: The name "Moskovskiy Instrumentalnyi Zavod" refers to a specific plant in Moscow. When this name is merely translated as "the instrument plant in Moscow", it can refer to at least fifteen other plants and gives no clue to exact identity.

5. Recommendations:

It is recommended that the foregoing be brought to the attention of the Chairman, Advisory Committee for NSCID-16, for any action considered appropriate.

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